

**Illinois Early Learning Council**  
**Family and Community Engagement Meeting**  
**August 16, 2013, 11 am – 12pm**  
**Illinois Action for Children**  
**1340 S. Damen Avenue Chicago, IL 60608**

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Committee and Subcommittee co-chairs:

**Maria Whelan** (IAFC), **George Davis** (City of Rockford Human Services), **Daniel Fitzgerald** (DCFS), **Tom Layman** (IAFC), **Carie Bires** (Ounce), **Granada Williams** (IL Head Start Association), **Choua Vue** (IAFC), **Martin Torres** (Latino Policy Forum)

Participants:

**Adrienne Stewart** (CPS Office of Early Childhood), **Angela Bailey** (BPI), **Beth Berendsen** (SEIU), **Libby Wilken** (I-KAN Homeless Liaison Program), **Bernard Cesarone** (IECAM), **Dawn Thomas** (IECAM), **Kim Collins** (OECD), **Mario Garcia** (Onward Neighborhood House), **Cerathel Burnett** (CRCL), **Kathy Villano** (The Center: Resources for Teaching & Learning), **Cathy Ile** (AOK - Southern Wabash), **Melinda Evelyn** (AOK - Southeast Chicago), **Joy Bah** (YWCA Lake County), **Donna Emmons** (ISBE), **Dan Hausman** (Health & Disability Advocates), **Nubia Rodriguez** (DCFS), **Theresa Hawley** (OECD), **Bob Camarata** (Through A Child's Eyes), **Christy Serrano** (Ounce), **Gail Nelson** (OECD), **Saleem Hue Penny** (IAFC)

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**I. Welcome and Introductions**

- a. Approved minutes from May 23, 2013
- b. Introduced new Family Community Engagement Committee staffer, Saleem Hue Penny
- c. FY 2014 Early Learning Council Dates (Kim Collins)
  - Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> Exec. (1:00-3:00 p.m.)
  - Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> ELC (11:00-2:00 p.m.)
  - Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> Exec. (1:00-3:00 p.m.)
  - Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> ELC (11:00-2:00 p.m.)
  - April 7<sup>th</sup> Exec. (1:00-3:00 p.m.)
  - June 2<sup>nd</sup> Exec. (1:00-3:00 p.m.)
  - June 23<sup>rd</sup> ELC (11:00-2:00 p.m.)
  - Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> Exec. (1:00-3:00 p.m.)
  - Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> ELC (11:00-2:00 p.m.)

**II. Federal Agency Updates**

- a. None presented

### III. State Agency Updates

#### a. Governor's Office Early Childhood Development (OECD)

*Theresa Hawley, Kim Collins, Gail Nelson*

- i. Early Learning Challenge Grant (ELCG): System implementation is on track, no significant updates.
- ii. Conference reports:
  - Several administrators attended the National BUILD Conference. Valuable experience as it showed the Federal direction of QRIS and systems building work. The direction Illinois is taking aligns with Federal efforts. Also a robust discussion of "implementation science" (for background see Zero to Three article 'Active Implementation Frameworks for Program Success' [click for pdf link](#)). This will be useful as we consider taking steps from small, model programs to scaling efforts statewide.
  - OECD staff also attended the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program State and Territory Administrators Meeting (STAM). Three main themes were emphasized: 1) workforce in Early Childhood Education research study, 2) streamlining monitoring procedures and requirements, 3) financing programs. The discussions on sources of public funding and cost-modeling at different levels of program quality were particularly informative.

#### b. Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)

*Donna Emmons*

- i. Illinois Early Learning Development Standards for Preschool are available online ([click for pdf link](#)). Staff has completed several train-the-trainers sessions on the standards.
- ii. Family engagement work is happening across ISBE division. Administrators creating guiding documents for staff.

#### c. Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)

- i. Go live date for Child Care Management System (CCMS) is September 23, 2013.

#### d. Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

*Daniel Fitzgerald*

- i. Department beginning FY 15 budget process. Pre-Council on Accreditation review successfully completed. Full council review scheduled for summer 2014. Hiring 100 direct service workers to focus on investigations

#### **IV. Local Agency Updates**

##### a. Chicago Public Schools (CPS)

*Adrienne Stewart*

- i. Early Childhood Construction Grant applications due September 6, 2013.

#### **V. FCE Subcommittee Reports**

##### a. Principles and Practices

*Choua Vue & Granada Williams*

- i. Subcommittee has completed workplan. Currently shifting focus to: 1) planning QRIS Level 5 communication to parents and providers, 2) developing feedback system for newly developed principles, and 3) exploring input/output lists for principles (i.e., all principles have to be evidenced (outputs) but programs can enter the system at different places (inputs).
- ii. Additionally, a main goal over the next year is a family and parent engagement needs assessment.

##### b. All Families Served (formerly Hard to Reach)

*Tom Layman & Carie Bires*

- i. Subcommittee proposed a new name, "All Families Served". The full FCE Committee voted to approve it.
- ii. Members acknowledging importance of identifying the range/gradations of risk among each target population. This has potential to influence how resources are directed. Also noted an important priority will be developing data sources and helping communities easily access these tools.
- iii. The subcommittee will support Innovation Zone implementation, especially regarding vulnerable populations where members have expertise and can move quickly. Will also support developing policy implications based on Innovation Zone work.

##### c. Capital/Infrastructure

*Martin Torres*

- i. State and Illinois Early Childhood Asset Mapping (IECAM) staff has done an analysis of the statewide applicant pool for Early Childhood Construction Grant program. The date was presented based on state Senate district.
- ii. Progress with transportation surveys continues. ISBE approved the Preschool for All transportation survey to be administered in October 2013. The childcare transportation survey is being drafted, subcommittee reaching out to see who/how to best administer the survey upon completion. Members noted anecdotal findings from the Head Start transportation survey, among which are some shifts/cutbacks in transportation as a result of Federal sequestration.

**VI. Next Steps/Follow Up Items**

- a. Saleem Hue Penny will meet with all co-chairs regarding workplans
- b. FY 14 FCE calendar will be created and sent to members
- c. Co-chairs have identified interest in having a dashboard for committee-wide projects and initiatives, as well as standardized system for tracking subcommittee progress.